



## Sally Irene Dowding

April 18, 1936 - November 13, 2015

Sally I. Dowding, 79 - of Springport, and formerly of Garner, NC, went home to be with our Lord and Savior, Friday November 13, 2015 at Sensations Nursing Care Facility, Charlotte MI - with her loving and faithful husband, Sam Dowding by her side.

Sally was born April 18, 1936 in Battle Creek Michigan; the daughter of Arthur and Hazel Schenck. She graduated from Olivet High School in 1954. She was an active member of Nashville Baptist Church, Nashville, Michigan; First Baptist Church, Charlotte, Michigan; and Ainger Bible Church, Olivet, Michigan. Sally taught Sunday school for junior high boys, was the youth choir director and sang in the adult choir, while attending Nashville Baptist Church. She was an active parent in the Olivet Community School system, where her children attended. She was employed as Head Cashier at Kroger Stores in central Michigan for 16 years, where she touched many lives. Sally enjoyed cooking for her kids and fed many of their friends through the years.

Sally married Sam Dowding, December 13, 1980. They lived in Garner, North Carolina for 33 years where they owned and operated Professional Machine and Tool, also Schenck Industries, LLC. Sally was a long-term member of Midway Baptist Church in Garner, North Carolina where she taught ladies Sunday school class, sang in the adult choir and was very active with hospitality teams. She was a faithful servant to her friends, loved to entertain

on a regular basis, and was a generous and witty individual to all. Mom had a special place in her heart for her two Cocker Spaniel dogs; Buffy and Aaron. When they passed away - a part of mom went with them. Both dogs were a large part of her and Sam's life while they lived in North Carolina. She will be deeply missed by her four children, ten grandchildren, three great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is survived by her loving husband of 35 years, Sam Dowding; sister, Joyce Ann Sparks (Kenneth) of Charlotte, MI; brother Lyle Schenck (Darlene) of Kalamazoo, MI; children, Steve (Karen) Coplin of Nashville, MI; Teresa (Coplin) Kocher of Zanesville, OH; Kendie (Coplin) Cooke, Brighton, CO; and Mark (Laurie) Coplin of Zanesville, OH; step-daughters Susie (Greg) Norton of Brookfield, MI; Nan (Bob) Hewitt of Olivet, MI; Carol (Joe) Kita of Olivet, MI; and the Skip Dowding family of Springport MI; grandchildren, Abe (Michelle) Kocher of Lakewood, CO; Samantha (Cooke) Shane Dhainin of Brighton, CO; Abbey (Kocher) Jason Williamson of Zanesville, OH; Kendrick Coplin of Nashville, MI; Annie (Kocher) Jeremy Lenhart of Zanesville, OH; Nicholas Coplin of Zanesville, OH; Heather Irene Cooke of Brighton, CO; Micah Coplin of Nashville, MI; Austin Coplin of Nashville, MI; Bo Coplin of Zanesville, OH; great-grandchildren, Logan Coplin, Hensley A. Williamson, and Cohen J. Williamson.

Sally was preceded in death by her father Arthur C. Schenck (1969); mother, Hazel Irene Schenck (1999), and son-in-law, Neil H. Cooke (2010).

The family will receive friends and family on Friday, November 20, 2015 from 2 to 4 PM, and 6 to 8 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte, MI. A celebration of life and reception is scheduled for 1 PM on November 21 at Nashville Baptist Church in Nashville, Michigan. Pastor Lester DeGroot will officiate the ceremony. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Sally's life. At the family's suggestion, memorial contributions in Sally's name may be made to Hospice

Advantage, 801 South Waverly Rd, Lansing, Alzheimer Foundation, or Sensations Memory Care, 511 East Shepherd St, Charlotte. Condolences can be sent to <http://www.prayfuneral.com/obituaries/Sally-Dowding-2/>. The family would like to thank the staff at Sensations Memory Care for the wonderful care given to mom. Special thanks to Lynn Ringleman for her loving and compassionate care of mom in her final days. God bless you all!

# Previous Events

## Funeral Ceremony

NOV **21**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Nashville Baptist Church  
312 Phillips Street  
Nashville, MI 49073

# Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Sally Irene Dowding



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 19, 2015 at 12:14 PM

TK

“ Teresa Kocher lit a candle in memory of Sally Irene Dowding



Teresa Kocher - February 13, 2016 at 08:45 PM

TK

*It's been 3 months since you passed away Momma, think of you every day! It still seems so surreal that you are gone. I have so many fond memories of Valentine's Day celebrations as we were growing up. Thank you for making those times so important for us. I miss you....*

Teresa Kocher - February 13, 2016 at 08:50 PM

TK

“ Teresa Kocher lit a candle in memory of Sally Irene Dowding



Teresa Kocher - January 01, 2016 at 07:04 PM

JH

“ Steve, Teresa, Kendie and Mark,

*Please accept my deep sympathies. I was so sorry to hear the news about your mother from my brother Lance. My memories about her are mostly from very early childhood, I remember her spunk and laughter and how every one around loved her. She is so beautiful and I know she was a wonderful mother because I have watched you all grow up into amazing women and men. We will see her again and that will be an awesome day to behold. Thank you Jesus!*

*Love you all, Janice (Russell) Hunter*

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**Janice Hunter** - December 04, 2015 at 01:21 PM



Kendie  
Cooke

*Thank you Janice. It was a huge loss for us.*

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**Kendie Cooke** - December 10, 2015 at 10:11 PM

AK

“ Abe And Michelle Kocher lit a candle in memory of Sally Irene Dowding



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**Abe and Michelle Kocher** - December 02, 2015 at 11:00 PM

 Kendie  
Cooke

“ *My Mom. She wasn't perfect of course but she had such a wonderful sense of humor. So many memories I could share. One of the life lessons that has always stuck with me was once, as an adult with kids and Navy wife, she was taking dishes out of her dishwasher and we were talking as she did this. She always put certain cups in the freezer because her and Sam loved drinking orange juice from frozen cups. Well she went to put two cups from the hot dishwasher to the freezer and they broke. She shouted out "sshittt"! Then looked at me and said "some people just can't stand to go from the hot, heated, problems in life to the freezer like these glasses. They shatter and break." We laughed until we cried as we were both going through some difficult things at the time. I don't know why we thought it was so funny and maybe one of those things "you had to be there" but I have thought of that moment so much throughout my life. I will and have missed you daily Mom. I love you but will see you someday.*

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**Kendie Cooke** - November 23, 2015 at 08:08 AM

CB

“ *Sally was a BEAUTIFUL and SWEET LADY. Sam the PRAYERS from your SS class at Mid Way are lifted up for you and the family.*

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**Charles Butler** - November 22, 2015 at 06:16 AM

 Kendie  
Cooke

*Thank you Charles*

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**Kendie Cooke** - November 23, 2015 at 10:18 AM

TK

*Thank you precious Charles. You were such a faithful friend to Mom and Sam. And so much help to them on numerous occasions. I hope to meet you someday.(Teresa, Sally's daughter in Ohio)*

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**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 03:31 PM

BL

“ Bob and Betty Lee purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Sally Irene Dowding .



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**Bob and Betty Lee** - November 21, 2015 at 12:36 PM

AJ

“ Steve, Teresa, Kendie, mark  
I happened to be in Florida with my mom last week when we heard of your moms passing. Needless to say, our hearts felt heavy. However, in the midst of heavy hearts we shared many memories of happy times spent with you all and smiles returned to our faces. Exactly what Sally would want.  
Sally had the amazing gift of being able to make everyone around her feel special. Her home was always a place of fun, comfort, and amazing food.  
Many things will always make me think of Sally. The brown stoneware dishes, the game Kerplunk, playing spoons, (ouch), the fuzzy toilet seat and the perfume she wore. I have no idea what kind it was but to this day when I smell it I turn to see if it's Sally.  
I feel very fortunate to have been part of Sally's "extended family" as a kid, and will always cherish my wonderful memories of her.  
God Bless you all!  
Amy Potter Jones

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**Amy Potter Jones** - November 21, 2015 at 10:44 AM



Thank you so much for sharing and coming to the funeral. Love you so much. Tell your mom hi

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**Kendie Cooke** - November 22, 2015 at 10:14 PM

TK

*Thanks Amy for coming! It was so good to see you. We all really appreciate it. Tell your precious mother I said Hi. I think of her often. We have lots of wonderful memories with you, Tommy & your Mom. Take care honey and have a wonderful Christmas.*

**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 03:26 PM

 Lisa French

“ *Lisa French sent a virtual gift in memory of Sally Irene Dowding*



**Lisa French** - November 17, 2015 at 09:51 PM

 Lisa French

*Sam, Kendie, Theresa, Steve, and Mark: I am so sorry for your loss. Sally was a beautiful person inside and out and I know she loves you all deeply. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

**Lisa French** - November 17, 2015 at 09:55 PM

 Kendie Cooke

*Thank you so very much Lisa for the gift and kind words. Thank you for all of your help and love for Mom while she was at Sensations. It was so great to reconnect with you. Take care.*

**Kendie Cooke** - November 18, 2015 at 02:28 PM

TK

*Thank you Lisa! We appreciate everything!*

**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 03:43 PM

ME

“ To the Coplin family. sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom! I think the last time I saw she and her husband was in NC years ago and we went to church and lunch following while we were in Cary visiting Dick's cousin. He's been gone 23 years so you know it had to be ages ago! Our families had some good times together while they were in school/church.

*Trust you can take comfort in the arms of Jesus during this difficult time and know where she is and rejoicing to be in the presence of the Lord!*

*Martha Van Engen*

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**Martha Van Engen** - November 17, 2015 at 07:10 PM

MC

*Thank u for the kind words Martha... She was a special lady and wonderful mom. We certainly had wonderful memories growing-up with your family. Love to all and God bless you.*

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**Mark Coplin** - November 17, 2015 at 08:31 PM

KC

*Thank you Martha. Yes our families did have a great time together.*

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**Kendie Cooke** - November 17, 2015 at 10:54 PM

TK

*Thank you Martha! We certainly do have lots of memories with the Van Engen family. This just makes heaven so much closer for all of us. Mom was a faithful servant, great mom and we will miss her presence in our lives. Take care and have a wonderful Christmas.*

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**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 03:22 PM

RK

“ Teresa, I am so sorry to hear about your mom. I have so many memories of our growing up years at your house. I remember how I always thought how pretty your mom was. Thinking of you and your family.



Regi (Butts) Knoll - November 17, 2015 at 05:36 PM



Regi, thank you and I will make sure Teresa reads this

Kendie Cooke - November 18, 2015 at 02:25 PM

TK

Thank you Regi! I, too will remember all the fun we had growing up just down the road from each other, my wretched horse Apache Kid, Bud picking me up off of Cochran after Kid dragged me....Mom was a beautiful, wonderful mother, my world is a lot bigger now that she is gone. I think of you often and trust you, Matt and your families are doing well. Have a wonderful Christmas friend.

Teresa Kocher - November 29, 2015 at 03:12 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Sally Irene Dowding .



November 17, 2015 at 01:35 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Know that your family is in my thoughts and my prayers.

Binka Schwan - November 17, 2015 at 11:47 AM



*Thank you so very much for your prayers during this time.*

**Kendie Cooke** - November 18, 2015 at 02:24 PM



*Thanks much Binka for your words of encouragement and prayers for my family and I. You are the BEST.*

**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 03:36 PM



*“ Thank you to my beautiful mom for everything that you taught me in life. In speaking with sis last night; you live through all of us all today. Your spirit, leadership and "family first" attitude will continue. Your wait is over, but our journey in life continues. We will see you in heaven mom. Love forever!!*



**mark coplin** - November 17, 2015 at 07:42 AM



*Nicely said!*

**Judie Bridleman** - November 17, 2015 at 10:49 AM



*You were such a great son who she was so very proud of. You're not to bad of a brother either. Love you so much.*

**Kendie Cooke** - November 17, 2015 at 11:06 AM

GD

“ Greg Harris and Mary Lu Dowding-Harris purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Sally Irene Dowding .



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**Greg Harris and Mary Lu Dowding-Harris** - November 17, 2015 at 06:13 AM

KP

“ Sally's home was an inviting place to flop, hang out, and eat good food. She made us feel welcomed anytime as high school students. I loved our friendship and happy times I spent with Steve, Teresa, Mark and Kendie. My heart is with all of you and your extended families. Parting with Mom is temporary, until you see her again in spirit. I love you all, still! May you find peace in your love of Dear Momma Sally!



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**Karen (Fuller) Petersen** - November 16, 2015 at 09:05 PM



Kendie Cooke

Thank you Karen. So will be missed.

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**Kendie Cooke** - November 17, 2015 at 06:52 AM

MC

Karen: thank you for the post. Mom will be missed by all. The memories with the Fuller family will be with me forever; skiing trips, swimming at the lake, hockey matches and vacations. I could go on and on... I appreciate you and your family; for being part of the Coplin family and the many years of fond memories. Coach and mom finished the race and are at the finish line celebrating. Thank you for being part of our life!! God bless you and the Fuller family. Thank u!!

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**mark coplin** - November 17, 2015 at 07:21 AM

TK

*Thank you so much Karen! She was the best Mom! My world feels so big without her. Gosh, the wonderful memories we all have of the Fuller family. We certainly did have the fun, year round fun, from swimming in the summer months to ice hockey in the winter! Lots of great times. We got to see Danny & Sylvia at Mom's calling hours & the funeral. It was so good to see them. I love you dear friend, have a wonderful Christmas.*

**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 03:48 PM

HM

“ *I will miss you my sweet Sally!!! Rest in heaven sweet angel. 😞*



**Heather Martinez** - November 16, 2015 at 08:07 PM



Kendie  
Cooke

*Thank you so much Heather.*

**Kendie Cooke** - November 17, 2015 at 06:53 AM

KC

*I will always have such fond memories of my Aunt Sally through my experience, and through my mother's eyes/stories, as she was my mom's life-long friend. I can remember sitting on Aunt Sally's bed while her and my mom were chatting. Always seemed to have "curlers" in her hair, but she always spoke in such a sweet/sensitive/soft/supportive voice. Very strong family values, and so proud of her children. She definitely left a lasting impression on me and will always be near and dear to my heart. Aunt Sally was like a life size Barbie to me, oh so beautiful! I am grateful for her visit with my mom before she passed, and to date, still utilize her lilacs cutting procedure that she taught me during her visit. As her journey continues, I can only look forward to seeing her again!*

**Kathy Coplin-Budrow** - November 17, 2015 at 05:34 PM



Kendie  
Cooke

*Thank you Kathy for sharing that memory. It means. Great deal Love you*

**Kendie Cooke** - November 18, 2015 at 02:22 PM

TK

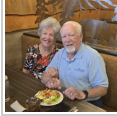
*Thank you so much Kathy for posting your tribute to our wonderful mom. And thank you for coming to the calling hours. We all appreciated you coming out. Please give Patti Jo and David our love. Lots of memories we will always share.*

**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 03:51 PM

JB

*“ I have so many fond memories of Aunt Sally. I especially loved the way she would make our mom smile in the way only she could. I loved her giggle and how it made her eyes sparkle! She always made me feel like a million bucks. She was a beautiful lady inside and out. I have fond memories of singing Christmas carols, playing hide and go seek with our cousins, strawberry shortcake, etc. I loved it when Uncle Sam and Aunt Sally would ask me to come along and we would “fly” to eat somewhere. Wow, I thought that was something. I will cherish forever the time I have been able to spend with her and Uncle Sam while visiting our dad – mom would play the piano and we would sing, even dad, and laugh. A couple of times there were noise complaints – not too surprising! Thank you Aunt Sally for loving me the way you did. I will always love you and will always and forever be able to see you in your children’s eyes and their children. . . Rest now Aunt Sally, you don’t need to fight anymore. ~Judie Bridleman (commonly known to only Aunt Sally and Uncle Sam as little \_ \_ \_ t!)*

**Judie Bridleman** - November 16, 2015 at 03:52 PM



*Dan and Betty Bullis  
We met Sam and Sally in NC  
We became friends and spent time together. We moved to Bennett Co  
and they came to visit us. Sally was a great friend*

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**Betty Bullis** - November 16, 2015 at 05:58 PM



*Thank you for sharing Betty. Love you guys*

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**Kendie Cooke** - November 17, 2015 at 06:54 AM



*Thanks Judie!! We have so many fond memories with our wonderful  
aunts, uncles and cousins, the Sparks!! We always enjoyed our time  
with your family, especially around the holidays. Aunt Joyce playing the  
piano and the joyous sing-alongs. Special times shared by all. Mom's  
journey on earth is over, but her memory and legacy will live-on  
through all of us. God bless you, your family and the Sparks.*

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**mark coplin** - November 17, 2015 at 07:33 AM



*Thanks so much Judie Kay! Oh we certainly did have the fun, laughter  
and music. Being with your Mom last weekend was so comforting. I  
want to thank you for allowing us to stay with her. I enjoyed our time  
together. The Spark's family will always be close in our hearts and  
memories. We love you all!*

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**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 03:59 PM

JB

“ I have so many fond memories of Aunt Sally. I especially loved the way she would make our mom smile in the way only she could. I loved her giggle and how it made her eyes sparkle! She always made me feel like a million bucks. She was a beautiful lady inside and out. Loved singing Christmas carols, playing hide and go seek, strawberry shortcake, etc. I loved it when Uncle Sam and Aunt Sally would ask me to come along and we would “fly” to eat somewhere. Wow, I thought that was something. I will cherish forever the time I have been able to spend with her and Uncle Sam while visiting our dad – mom would play the piano and we would sing, even dad, and laugh. A couple of times there were noise complaints – not too surprising! Thank you Aunt Sally for loving me the way you did. I will always love you and will always and forever be able to see you in your children’s eyes and their children. . . Rest now Aunt Sally, you don’t need to fight anymore. ~Judie Bridleman (commonly known to only Aunt Sally and Uncle Sam as little \_ \_ \_ t!)

Judie Bridleman - November 16, 2015 at 01:22 PM

JR

“ I always asked Aunt Sally to bring her homemade yeast rolls anytime we had a family dinner--they were the best! And I loved listening to her voice; it was so unique. I can still hear it now. I always looked forward to getting our work done so that we could join Aunt Sally and my cousins at Duck Lake during the summer. Fun times and happy memories!  
Jennie

jennie richardson - November 16, 2015 at 12:08 AM



We did have so much fun at Duck Lake. Thanks for sharing.

Kendie Cooke - November 26, 2015 at 05:32 AM

TK

*Oh the memories!!! I remember our families going to the Detroit Zoo and we left Kurkie at a restaurant by accident. I recently came across some letters when you were in college and we wrote to each other. I have always admired you, You were someone to look up to. We will always have the laughter, love and genes to keep us all close. You and Tom take care of each other. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, love you dearly.*

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**Teresa Kocher** - November 29, 2015 at 04:05 PM

TE

“ Growing up, as long as my Mom was in my world I felt so safe and secure. She was the center of my universe for so many years. She was a woman of her word, honest, hard working, giving, selfless, a servants spirit, spunky, feisty, confident, organized, kind hearted, above all she was the BEST Mom 4 kids could've ever asked for. If she said I will pick you up at a certain time, she was there. She was our biggest fan, cheerleader, prayer warrior and the anchor in our home.

Our home was everyone's home, she always made sure there was enough food for everyone, love was unlimited and laughter constant. Whether we brought home football players, cheerleaders, high school/college friend(s) or the whole youth group, she always made sure there was plenty for all.

From her pies, cookies & pot roasts to the homemade waffles on Sunday mornings, she was a phenomenal cook. There was no greater comfort when we all came home than smelling the aroma floating from her kitchen.

I see her hands in my own and now my girls. The magic, soft touch of her hand is something I, nor words can explain.

As we stood with Sam in the trenches and helplessly watched this dreadful disease devour her mind, she never quit being a Mom. Numerous times I heard her say to all of us at one time or another, "drive carefully, you look tired and worried, take care of yourself, watch over your family, be careful, are the kids okay, what can I do to help you."

She was my role model, someone whom I deeply admired for so many reasons. I learned from her mistakes and victories.

From peeling the potatoes at all our Thanksgiving gatherings, birthday's that she & Sam drove many miles to attend, the births of our children and to the many Christmas' we shared, she will always

*be remembered.*

*And when I miss her, I will look to my little brother (Mark/Spark) to see her take charge personality, I will look to my little sister (Kendie) and see her confidence and my big brother (Steve) her work ethic. The tears we shed are ours because we will miss her constant presence in our lives.*

*I am reminded of this verse: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4*

*Looking forward to the day Momma we can all be together again.  
I love you more, forever and always!  
Your daughter,  
Teresa*

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**Teresa** - November 15, 2015 at 03:29 PM

KC

“ My Mom was so much fun. She loved the teenage years with us as kids which I find hilarious. She wasn't perfect of course but she had such a wonderful sense of humor. So many memories I could share. One of the life lessons that has always stuck with me was once, as an adult with kids and Navy wife, she was taking dishes out of her dishwasher and we were talking as she did this. She always put certain cups in the freezer because her and Sam loved drinking orange juice from frozen cups. Well she went to put two cups from the hot dishwasher to the freezer and they broke. She shouted out "sshittt"! Then looked at me and said "some people just can't stand to go from the hot, heated, problems in life to the freezer like these glasses. They shatter and break." We laughed until we cried as we were both going through some difficult things at the time. I don't know why we thought it was so funny and maybe one of those things "you had to be there" but I have thought of that moment so much throughout my life. I will and have missed you daily Mom. I love you but will see you someday. Kendie



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**Kendie Cooke** - November 14, 2015 at 10:11 PM